



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.             | CONFIRMATION NO.       |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/590,476  | 04/24/2007  | Tomoyo Sasaki        | TSM-5485                        | 9704                   |
| 24956 7590 03/17/2010<br>MATTINGLY & MALUR, P.C.<br>1800 DIAGONAL ROAD<br>SUITE 370<br>ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 |             |                      | EXAMINER<br>WITZENBURG, BRUCE A |                        |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT<br>2166                | PAPER NUMBER           |
|   |             |                      | MAIL DATE<br>03/17/2010         | DELIVERY MODE<br>PAPER |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |  |                                      |  |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/590,476   | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>SASAKI ET AL. |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>BRUCE A. WITZENBURG | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2166              |  |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 December 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 November 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/28/2009</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. With respect to the amendments filed 12/07/2009, claims 1-18 remain pending in the instant application.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyamoto (US 5,768,129) hereafter "Miyamoto."

Regarding claim 1, Miyamoto discloses an environmental load aggregation apparatus for aggregating environmental load information in life stages of a product, said environmental load aggregation apparatus comprising:

a part information storage device which stores part information on various parts or the product, said part information including information on other parts having a parent-child relationship to the various parts; (Abs; Col 2, lines 26-30; lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-18; lines 34-43; While Miyamoto does not specifically use the terminology "part information" it is apparent from the specification of Miyamoto that the processes disclosed pertain to

Art Unit: 2166

the production of parts and thus it remains at least obvious over the disclosure to direct the invention to physical "parts." Additionally note the above claim is further rejected as "parts" may also be interpreted as any portion of a whole including processes to produce it.)

a process information storage device, which stores process information on a process relating to production of a part or the product, said process information being defined by a supplier of the part or the product and comprising information on environmental load items affecting environment in said process, information on a basic process corresponding to said process among basic processes that are defined by a predetermined rule and that relate to the production of the product, and information on a part to which said process is tied; (Abs; Col 2, lines 26-30; lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-18; lines 34-43; While Miyamoto does not specifically disclose anyone of a specific role defining process information, it does disclose an openly available input section and it would have been at least obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow the supplier of a part to define such information as they are generally the most knowledgeable about the parts they, themselves manufacture if it is not already inherent within the implementation of Miyamoto)

a stage definition information storage device, which stores stage definition information on a life stage of the product, the stage definition information being defined by the supplier of the product and comprising information on a basic process assigned to said

Art Unit: 2166

life stage; (Abs, Col 2, lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-8; Col 5, lines 7-16 Note that while Miyamoto does not specifically use the terminology “stage definition information” the interrelated processes define stages “during a life cycle of a product from its production to its disposal” and in this case the processes can be considered to define the stage of the life cycle, further, the stages are of a standard template based upon the life-stage of the product as evidenced by Col 5, lines 7-16) and

an environmental load information aggregation device, which receives designation of the product and aggregates environmental load information in life stages of the designated product; wherein said environmental load information aggregation device performs: processing for specifying each component part of the designated product, using the part information of each part, which is stored in said part information storage device; processing for searching the process information storage device for process information on a process tied to each of the specified parts; processing for classifying retrieved pieces of process information according to a life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of the supplier of the designated product, which is stored in said stage definition information storage device; and processing for aggregating the environmental load information included in the retrieved pieces of process information, for each life stage. (Abs, Col 2, lines 54-59; Col 4, line 44 – Col 5, line 16)

Art Unit: 2166

Regarding claim 2, claim 2 is rejected for substantially the same reason as claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 3, claim 3 is rejected for substantially the same reason as claim 1 above. Note input includes display of related parts / processes.

Regarding claim 4, claim 4 is rejected for substantially the same reason as claim 1 above with the exception that Miyamoto does not disclose a “disclosure level,” however data protection is well known and appreciated in the art and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a form of “disclosure level” for sensitive information to prevent unauthorized disclosure or use of said information.

Regarding claim 5, Miyamoto discloses an environmental load aggregation method, in which a computer aggregates environmental load information in life stages of a product, wherein:

a storage unit of said computer stores: part information, which is information on various parts or the product and includes information on other parts having a parent-child relationship to the various parts; (Abs; Col 2, lines 26-30; lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-18; lines 34-43; While Miyamoto does not specifically use the terminology “part information” it is apparent from the specification of Miyamoto that the processes disclosed pertain to the production of parts and thus it remains at least obvious over the disclosure to direct

Art Unit: 2166

the invention to physical "parts." Additionally note the above claim is further rejected as "parts" may also be interpreted as any portion of a whole including processes to produce it.)

process information, which is information on a process relating to production of a part or the product, said process information being defined by a supplier of the part or the product and comprising information on environmental load items affecting environment in said process, information on a basic process corresponding to said process among basic processes that are defined according to a predetermined rule and relate to the production of the product, and information on a part to which said process is tied; (Abs; Col 2, lines 26-30; lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-18; lines 34-43; While Miyamoto does not specifically disclose anyone of a specific role defining process information, it does disclose an openly available input section and it would have been at least obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow the supplier of a part to define such information as they are generally the most knowledgeable about it if it is not already inherent within the implementation of Miyamoto) and

stage definition information, which is information on a life stage of the product, the stage definition information being defined by the supplier of the product and comprising information on a basic process assigned to said life stage; (Abs, Col 2, lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-8; Col 5, lines 7-16 Note that while Miyamoto does not specifically use the terminology "stage definition information" the interrelated processes define stages

Art Unit: 2166

"during a life cycle of a product from its production to its disposal" and in this case the processes can be considered to define the stage of the life cycle, further, the stages are of a standard template based upon the life-stage of the product as evidenced by Col 5, lines 7-16)

and an operation unit of said computer performs:

a step of specifying each component part of a designated product, using the part information of each part, which is stored in said part information storage device; (Col 3, lines 54-62; Col 5, lines 7-16; lines 34-67)

a step of searching the process information storage device for process information on a process tied to each of the specified parts; (Col 5, lines 34-67)

a step of classifying retrieved pieces of process information according to life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of the supplier of the designated product, which is stored in said stage definition information storage device; and (Abs, Col 2, lines 54-59; Col 3, lines 54-62; Col 4, line 44 – Col 5, line 16; lines 34-67)

a step of aggregating the environmental load information included in the retrieved pieces of process information, for each life stage. (Abs, Col 2, lines 54-59; Col 4, line 44 - Col 5, line 16)



Regarding claim 6, claim 6 is rejected for substantially the same reason as claim 4 above.

Regarding claim 7, a computer-readable program, wherein a storage unit of a computer stores: part information, which is information on various parts or a product and includes information on other parts having a parent-child relationship to the various parts; (Abs; Col 2, lines 26-30; lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-18; lines 34-43; While Miyamoto does not specifically use the terminology “part information” it is apparent from the specification of Miyamoto that the processes disclosed pertain to the production of parts and thus it remains at least obvious over the disclosure to direct the invention to physical “parts.” Additionally note the above claim is further rejected as “parts” may also be interpreted as any portion of a whole including processes to produce it.

process information, which is information on a process relating to production of a part or the product, said process information being defined by a supplier of the part or the product and comprising information on environmental load items affecting environment in said process, information on a basic process corresponding to said process among basic processes that are defined by a predetermined rule and relate to the production of the product, and information on a part to which said process is tied; (Abs; Col 2, lines 26-30; lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-18; lines 34-43; While Miyamoto does not specifically disclose anyone of a specific role defining process information, it does disclose an

Art Unit: 2166

openly available input section and it would have been at least obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow the supplier of a part to define such information as they are generally the most knowledgeable about it if it is not already inherent within the implementation of Miyamoto) and

stage definition information, which is information on a life stage of the product, the stage definition information being defined by the supplier of the product and comprising information on a basic process assigned to said life stage; (Abs, Col 2, lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-8; Col 5, lines 7-16 Note that while Miyamoto does not specifically use the terminology "stage definition information" the interrelated processes define stages "during a life cycle of a product from its production to its disposal" and in this case the processes can be considered to define the stage of the life cycle, further, the stages are of a standard template based upon the life-stage of the product as evidenced by Col 5, lines 7-16) wherein said program realizes, in an operation unit of said computer:

a function of specifying each component part of a designated product, using the part information of each part, which is stored in said part information storage device; (Col 3, lines 54-62; Col 5, lines 7-16; lines 34-67)

a function of searching the process information storage device for process information on a process tied to each of the specified parts; (Col 5, lines 34-67)

Art Unit: 2166

a function of classifying retrieved pieces of process information according to a life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of the supplier of the designated product, which is stored in said stage definition information storage device; (Abs, Col 2, lines 54-59; Col 3, lines 54-62; Col 4, line 44 – Col 5, line 16; lines 34-67) and

a function of aggregating the environmental load information included in the retrieved pieces of process information, for each life stage. (Abs, Col 2, lines 54-59; Col 4, line 44 - Col 5, line 16)

Regarding claim 8, claim 8 is rejected for substantially the same reason as claim 4 above.

Regarding claim 9, Miyamoto discloses an environmental load aggregation apparatus for aggregating environmental load information in life stages of a product, said environmental load aggregation apparatus comprising:

a part information storage device, which stores part information on various parts or the product, said part information including information on other parts having a parent-child relationship to the various parts; (Abs; Col 2, lines 26-30; lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-18; lines 34-43; While Miyamoto does not specifically use the terminology “part information” it is apparent from the specification of Miyamoto that the processes disclosed pertain to

Art Unit: 2166

the production of parts and thus it remains at least obvious over the disclosure to direct the invention to physical "parts." Additionally note the above claim is further rejected as "parts" may also be interpreted as any portion of a whole including processes to produce it.)

a process information storage device, which stores process information comprising information on a basic process relating to production of the product, which is defined by a predetermined rule, and information on a part to which said process information is tied; (Abs; Col 2, lines 26-30; lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-18; lines 34-43; While Miyamoto does not specifically disclose anyone of a specific role defining process information, it does disclose an openly available input section and it would have been at least obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow the supplier of a part to define such information as they are generally the most knowledgeable about it if it is not already inherent within the implementation of Miyamoto)

an environmental load information storage device, which stores environmental load information comprising information on a basic process and information environmental load items affecting environment in said basic process; (Abs, Col 2, lines 54-59; Col 4, line 44 – Col 5, line 16)

a life stage definition information storage device, which stores stage definition information comprising information on basic processes assigned to each life stage of

Art Unit: 2166

the product; (Abs, Col 2, lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-8; Col 5, lines 7-16 Note that while Miyamoto does not specifically use the terminology “stage definition information” the interrelated processes define stages “during a life cycle of a product from its production to its disposal” and in this case the processes can be considered to define the stage of the life cycle, further, the stages are of a standard template based upon the life-stage of the product as evidenced by Col 5, lines 7-16) and

an environmental load information aggregation device, which receives designation of the product and aggregates environmental load information in life stages of the designated product; (Abs, Col 2, lines 54-59; Col 4, line 44 – Col 5, line 16) wherein

said environmental load information aggregation device performs: processing for specifying each component part of the designated product, using the part information of each part, which is stored in said part information storage device; processing for searching the process information storage device for process information on a process tied to each of the specified parts; processing for classifying retrieved pieces of process information according to a life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of the designated product, which is stored in said stage definition information storage device; and processing for reading environmental load information including information on a basic process included in each of the retrieved pieces of process information, from said environmental load information storage device, and aggregating the environmental load

Art Unit: 2166

information included in the read pieces of process information, for each life stage. (Abs, Col 2, lines 54-59; Col 4, line 44 – Col 5, line 16)

Regarding claim 10, claim 10 is rejected for substantially the same reason as claim 9 above.

Regarding claim 11, Miyamoto discloses an environmental load aggregation method, in which a computer aggregates environmental load information in life stage of a product, wherein: a storage unit of said computer stores: part information, which is information on various parts or the product and includes information on other parts having a parent-child relationship to the various parts; (Abs; Col 2, lines 26-30; lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-18; lines 34-43; While Miyamoto does not specifically use the terminology “part information” it is apparent from the specification of Miyamoto that the processes disclosed pertain to the production of parts and thus it remains at least obvious over the disclosure to direct the invention to physical “parts.” Additionally note the above claim is further rejected as “parts” may also be interpreted as any portion of a whole including processes to produce it.)

process information, which comprises information on a basic process relating to production of the product, said basic process being defined according to a predetermined rule, and information on a part tied to said basic process; (Abs; Col 2, lines 26-30; lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-18; lines 34-43; While Miyamoto does not

Art Unit: 2166

specifically disclose anyone of a specific role defining process information, it does disclose an openly available input section and it would have been at least obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow the supplier of a part to define such information as they are generally the most knowledgeable about it if it is not already inherent within the implementation of Miyamoto)

environmental load information comprising information on a basic process and information on environmental load items affecting environment in said basic process; (Abs, Col 2, lines 54-59; Col 4, line 44 – Col 5, line 16)

and stage definition information comprising information on a basic process assigned to each life stage of the product; (Abs, Col 2, lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-8; Col 5, lines 7-16  
Note that while Miyamoto does not specifically use the terminology “stage definition information” the interrelated processes define stages “during a life cycle of a product from its production to its disposal” and in this case the processes can be considered to define the stage of the life cycle, further, the stages are of a standard template based upon the life-stage of the product as evidenced by Col 5, lines 7-16)

and an operation unit of said computer performs: a step of receiving designation of the product through an input unit; (Col 2, lines 35-42; Col 3, lines 55-62; Col 4, lines 27-33)

Art Unit: 2166

a step of specifying parts constituting the designated product, using the part information of each part, which is stored in said storage unit; (Col 3, lines 54-62; Col 5, lines 7-16; lines 34-67)

a step of searching said storage unit for each piece of process information tied to each of said specified parts; (Col 5, lines 34-67)

a step of classifying the retrieved pieces of process information according to a life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of said designated product, which is stored in said storage unit; (Abs, Col 2, lines 54-59; Col 3, lines 54-62; Col 4, line 44 – Col 5, line 16; lines 34-67) and

a step of reading environmental load information including information on a basic process included in each retrieved piece of process information, and aggregating information on environmental load items included in the read pieces of environmental load information, for each life stage. (Abs, Col 2, lines 54-59; Col 4, line 44 - Col 5, line 16)

Regarding claim 12, Miyamoto discloses a computer readable program, wherein:

a storage unit of a computer stores: part information, which is information on various parts or a product and includes information on other parts having a parent-child



Art Unit: 2166

relationship to the various parts; (Abs; Col 2, lines 26-30; lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-18; lines 34-43; While Miyamoto does not specifically use the terminology “part information” it is apparent from the specification of Miyamoto that the processes disclosed pertain to the production of parts and thus it remains at least obvious over the disclosure to direct the invention to physical “parts.” Additionally note the above claim is further rejected as “parts” may also be interpreted as any portion of a whole including processes to produce it.)

process information comprising information on a basic process that is defined according to a predetermined rule and relates to production of the product, and information on a part tied to said basic process; environmental load information, which comprises information on a basic process and information on environmental load items affecting environment in said basic process; (Abs; Col 2, lines 26-30; lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-18; lines 34-43; While Miyamoto does not specifically disclose anyone of a specific role defining process information, it does disclose an openly available input section and it would have been at least obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow the supplier of a part to define such information as they are generally the most knowledgeable about it if it is not already inherent within the implementation of Miyamoto)

and stage definition information, which comprises information on basic processes assigned to each life stage of the product; (Abs, Col 2, lines 47-53; Col 4, lines 1-8; Col

Art Unit: 2166

5, lines 7-16 Note that while Miyamoto does not specifically use the terminology “stage definition information” the interrelated processes define stages “during a life cycle of a product from its production to its disposal” and in this case the processes can be considered to define the stage of the life cycle, further, the stages are of a standard template based upon the life-stage of the product as evidenced by Col 5, lines 7-16)and

said program realizes, in an operation unit of said computer: a function of receiving designation of the product through an input unit; (Col 2, lines 35-42; Col 3, lines 55-62; Col 4, lines 27-33)

a function of specifying parts constituting the designated product, using the part information of each part, which is stored in said storage unit; (Col 3, lines 54-62; Col 5, lines 7-16; lines 34-67)

a function of searching said storage unit for each piece of process information tied to each of said specified parts; (Col 5, lines 34-67)

a function of classifying the retrieved pieces of process information according to a life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of said designated product, which is stored in said storage unit; (Abs, Col 2, lines 54-59; Col 3, lines 54-62; Col 4, line 44 – Col 5, line 16; lines 34-67) and

a function of reading environmental load information including information on a basic process included in each retrieved piece of process information, and aggregating information on environmental load items included in the read pieces of environmental load information, for each life stage. (Abs, Col 2, lines 54-59; Col 4, line 44 - Col 5, line 16)

Regarding claim 13, claim 13 is rejected for substantially the same reason as claim 1 above. Note specifically that Col 5, lines 6-16 provides evidence and motivation that the template is based upon the life stage each process occurs within, further standardizing database templates is not only common in the art at the time of the invention, but a trivial difference to allow data from multiple sources to be easily readable and understandable. Because the modification of Miyamoto to contain standardized templates would have been trivial to implement and would provide easily interpretable data from related sources aggregating environmental impact, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a standard template.

Regarding claim 14, claim 14 is rejected for substantially the same reason as claim 13 above.

Art Unit: 2166

Regarding claim 15, claim 15 is rejected for substantially the same reason as claim 13 above.

Regarding claim 16, claim 16 is rejected for substantially the same reason as claim 13 above.

Regarding claim 17, claim 17 is rejected for substantially the same reason as claim 13 above.

Regarding claim 18, claim 18 is rejected for substantially the same reason as claim 13 above.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Regarding applicant's argument that Miyamoto does not disclose defined "processes" corresponding to various "life stages" of a product, the argument has been considered but is not deemed to be persuasive. As evidenced by Col 5, lines 6-16, there is at least a suggestion of forming templated or standardized information with regards to the life stage in which the process occurs. The examiner therefore maintains that it would have been at least obvious to define or keep track of the life stage a process occurs in, in order to produce an optimal template.

Art Unit: 2166

Regarding applicant's argument that Miyamoto does not disclose "the life stages of the product are each a component process of a life cycle of the product and are each defined by the supplier of the product by assigning a basic process from among the plurality of basic processes to the life stage, and wherein the plurality of basic processes as defined by the predetermined rule are common to different suppliers," the argument has been considered but is not deemed to be persuasive. Again, Col 5, lines 6-16 give evidence to produce a standardized template when assigning a process to a life stage. Along with being a trivial difference in implementation, centralization and standardization of templates is common practice in distributed computing and allows data from diverse sources to be easily read and properly interpreted. The examiner maintains that it would have therefore been at least obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a standardized template for definition of load aggregation so information from multiple companies or establishments could be interpreted and used centrally.

### ***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record in this action is as follows:
  - a. Miyamoto (US 5,768,129)
5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 2166

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRUCE A. WITZENBURG whose telephone number is (571)270-1908. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2166

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Bruce A Witzenburg/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2166

/Etienne P LeRoux/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2161

3/14/2010